

The deadly BEARS incident

in 2 Kings 2:23-24 **was** / is ...

“Then he [Elisha] went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, “**Go up** [like Elijah did], **you baldhead!** **Go up** [if YOU can], **you baldhead** [YOU weak old man]!” So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.” *(2 Kings 2:23-24)*

* * *

a warning

to disbelievers (then & now)

(fill in the blank)

* * *

about the lack of

faith and godly fear

(fill in the blank)

* * *

an avoidable

tragic loss of life

(fill in the blank)

* *

because of

mocking the Lord

(fill in the blank)

* *

both

miraculous & natural

(fill in the blank)

* * *

difficult to reconcile

with Matthew 5:44

(fill in the blank)

* * *

harsh but

just & thought-provoking

(fill in the blank)

Descriptive



Meditation

*more about disbelieving youths
than about angry mother bears*

* * *

like contemporary

mockery of the rapture

(fill in the blank)

* *

near the beginning

of Elisha's ministry

(fill in the blank)

* *

not about

young children

(fill in the blank)

* * *

not nearly as

long as other Elisha stories

(fill in the blank)

* * *

often wrongly

criticized by unbelievers

(fill in the blank)

* *

somewhat like the

deaths in Acts 5:1-11

(fill in the blank)

* *

similar to the

deadly incident in 2 Kgs. 7:17

(fill in the blank)

* * *

the flip side of

healing the water in 2:19-22

(fill in the blank)

* * *

to help show

that Elisha was God's prophet

(fill in the blank)

Directions: after reading through **2 Kings 2:19-25**, consider and discuss the various ways the incident with the two female bears is described above. *Do you agree with the points made or would you change them in some ways? If so, how?* — **At the end of the study, focus on the most important descriptive phrases and make personal applications.** *Is it proper for believers today to curse those who oppose the gospel? If not, what should they do instead?* (See 2 Timothy 4:14-15 as well as Matthew 5:44.) — © 2022 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.